

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-07 SAJ-01 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-05 OMB-01 /085 W

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R 271331Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8239

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 05867

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, CH

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEW OF PRC MOTIVES IN INVITING NIXON

SUMMARY: FRENCH INFORMATION MEDIA HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE COVERAGE TO THE NIXON VISIT TO CHINA, AND QUAI OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN INTERESTED IN VISIT PARTICULARLY FOR THE LIGHT WHICH IT SHEDS ON PRC INTERNAL POLITICS (WHETHER THE CURRENT SUCCESSION STRUGGLE WILL INFLUENCE FOREIGN POLICY) AND ON PRC RELATIONS WITH THE US AND USSR. THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE SPECULATION ABOUT PRC MOTIVES IN INVITING NIXON AND IN GENERAL THE FRENCH CONSIDER THE PRINCIPAL REASON TO BE THE PRC'S DESIRE TO GIVE A LESSON TO THE AMERICANS ABOUT THE KIND OF LEADER AND POLICIES (PARTICULARLY TOWARD THE USSR) THE USG SHOULD HAVE. OTHER MOTIVES CITED WERE THE PRC DESIRE TO SHOW SYMBOLICALLY THE CONTINUITY OF THE POLICIES TOWARD THE US AND THE USSR, A SIGNAL TO THE SOVIETS AT THE TIME OF THE PARTY CONGRESS, AND INFLUENCING THE US ELECTIONS.

1. QUAI. ACCORDING TO QUAI OFFICER, THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN PEKING HAS SO FAR REPORTED ONLY ON THE FACTS OF THE VISIT AND THE LIGHT WHICH THE VISIT SHEDS ON CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO THE INTERNAL STRUGGLE. THE QUAI CONCLUDES THAT THE VISIT  
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REINFORCES THE PREVIOUSLY HELD VIEW THAT THE INTERNAL

POWER STRUGGLE WHICH RESULTED IN HUA'S BECOMING THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER WILL NOT AFFECT CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY THE POLICY TOWARD THE USSR AND THE US. AS TO PRC MOTIVES FOR THE INVITATION AT THIS TIME, THE QUAI CONCLUDES THAT THE CHINESE WISHED TO SHOW THE US THE KIND OF LEADER IT SHOULD HAVE AS PRESIDENT AND THE KIND OF POLICY WHICH THE USG SHOULD BE FOLLOWING. (WHILE BELIEVING THAT THE END OF US INTERVENTION IN INDOCHINA SHOULD HAVE "STRENGTHENED" THE US, THE PRC "WILL NEVER FORGIVE US WEAKNESS OVER ANGOLA".) THE QUAI ALSO THINKS THAT CHINA WISHES TO INFLUENCE US INTERNAL POLITICS. WHILE PROBABLY NOT DIRECTLY TIED TO THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARIES -- THE VISIT DOES SHOW TO THE AMERICAN ELECTORATE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO SHOULD BE NOMINATED AND ELECTED. WHILE THE QUAI THOUGHT THAT THE CHINESE MIGHT BE THINKING ONLY OF THE REPUBLICAN "RIGHT WING" IT WAS MORE LIKELY THEY WISHED TO INDICATE MERELY THE TYPE OF PERSON FROM EITHER PARTY WHO SHOULD BECOME PRESIDENT.

2. PCF. HUMANITE PREDICTABLY SNIPED AT THE PRC BY POINTING OUT THE CHINESE WERE GIVING A GREAT HONOR TO THE MAN WHOM AMERICAN IMPERIALISM WAS COMPELLED TO DISMISS BECAUSE OF SCANDALS. "WITH A SERIOUS CRISIS IN CHINA, THE PRC WISHES PERHAPS TO DIVERT ATTENTION THROUGH INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS, AN INSANE POLICY, DANGEROUS FOR EVERYONE, PRIMARILY FOR CHINA."

3. JOBERT. LE MONDE QUOTED MICHEL JOBERT FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER AS SAYING THAT THE CHINESE WISH TO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 05867

TEACH A LESSON OF RESOLUTION TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.  
NIXON HAD BEEN THE PRESIDENT "OF AMERICAN RESOLUTION,  
OF THE AFFIRMATION OF AMERICAN FORCE THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD, AND OF AMERICAN NATIONALISM."

4. PRESS. IN GENERAL THE PRESS (WITH THE EXCEPTION  
OF THE COMMUNIST PAPERS) IS GIVING ACCURATE AND COM-  
PLETE COVERAGE OF THE FACTS AND NOTING THE VERY HIGH-  
LEVEL RECEPTION, "WORTHY OF A CHIEF OF STATE." THE  
PRESS PLAYED UP THE NIXON REMARKS ABOUT "HELSINKI"  
AS BEING DESIGNED TO PERMIT THE CHINESE TO INSINUATE  
THAT NIXON'S VIEWS ON DETENTE WERE CLOSER TO THOSE OF  
THE PRC THAN TO KISSINGER'S. MOST PAPERS UNDERLINE  
THE MESSAGE AIMED AT FORD. SOME NOTED THAT THE  
EMBARRASSMENT TO PRESIDENT FORD CAME IN THE MIDDLE OF  
AN ELECTION CAMPAIGN. SOME MENTIONED THAT THE VISIT  
ALSO SERVES TO REMIND THE CHINESE PEOPLE THAT MAO'S  
FOREIGN POLICY , OPPOSITION TO THE USSR AND TIES  
TO THE US , IS NOT TO BE MADE A PART OF THE CURRENT  
ANTI-RIGHTIST CAMPAIGN GOING ON IN CHINA AS AN AD-  
JUNCT TO THE SUCCESSION STRUGGLE.  
RUSH

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